(c) whether it is proposed to develop a suitable emergency response mechanism specific to the cases of inundation, fires, explosions, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) Monitoring of safety parameters in coal mines is primarily the responsibility of mine operators. The coal companies have established Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) for effective monitoring of safety aspects covering mine level, area level and company level. The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) Organisation under Ministry of Labour and Employment is vested with the responsiblity for monitoring of safety aspects of mines as per the statute *i.e.* Mines Act-1952 and the Rules and Regulations there-under. Further, safety parameters are reviewed at regular intervals by various Safety Committees at mines and company level, in which Trade Union representatives, DGMS officials and mine officials participate. At national level, the safety parameters in coal mines are reviewed periodically by the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines under the Chairmanship of Minister of Coal.

(c) and (d) Every mine is required to prepare a general plan of action for use in time of emergency such as inundation, fires and explosion as per the provisions of Coal Mines Regulations. Standing orders delineating the actions and persons responsible for various activities in time of emergency like inundation, fires and explosion are issued by the colliery management including the role of rescue personnel. A Crisis Management Plan in case of disasters is also put in place at Government level.

Development and allocation of captive coal blocks

3245. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the action plan of Government to development and allocate captive coal blocks with a view to boost coal production;

(b) the details fo such captive coal blocks that are proposed to be developed in Orissa; and

(c) to what extent this would help to bridge the gap between demand and supply in coal sector.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (c) In the 5th Meeting of the Energy Coordination Committee held on 10.02.2006, a view was taken that Ministry of Coal would identify adequate number of coal blocks aggregating to 20 billion tonnes of reserves. Accordingly, 81 coal blocks with geological reserves of about 20 billion tonnes were identified for allocation to eligible public/ private sector companies. Out of 81 coal blocks, 19 coal blocks are in the State of Orissa. Of the 19 coal blocks, 3 blocks *viz.* Meenakshi, Meenakshi B and Dip side of Meenakshi have been allocated to Orissa Ultra Mega Power Project. 6 other coal blocks *viz.* Ghogharpalli, Dip side of Goharpalli, Chaturdhara, Bankhui, Alaknanda and Sakhigopal B have been earmarked for allocation to power projects to be recommended by the Ministry of Power under tariff based competive bidding policy. Further, 3 coal blocks *viz* Mandakini, Rampia and Dip side of Rampia have been allocated to private companies for captive use.

The remaining 7 coal blocks *viz* Chendipada, Chendipada II, Manoharpur, Dip side of Manoharpur and Naini, Mandakini B, and Baintarni West have been allocated to various Central and State public sector enterprises for power generation, under the government company dispensation route.

Jharia action plan

3246. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is launching a Rs. 10,000 crore Jharia Action Plan to give relief to about four lakh people living in sensitive areas on account of abandoning of Rs. 60,000 crore worth of coal reserves, due to continued threat of underground fire;

(b) if so, whether the relief package would contain adequate provisions for work for the affected workers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: (a) An Action Plan for dealing with fire, subsidence and rehabilitation in Jharia Coalfield in the command area of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) has been prepared for a capital outlay of Rs. 6358.45 crore (July, 2006 base). As per the Action Plan 98,314 houses from 595 unstable and uncontrollable sites due to fire and subsidence are to be rehabilitated to safer places. Demographic survey is being carried out to assess the number of affected persons. It is estimated that about 1864 million tonnes of coal has been locked up due to these underground fires.

(b) and (c) The Action Plan does not contain provision of work for the affected persons. However, for the purpose of income generation due to displacement/shifting to the new resettlement site, it is proposed to pay minimum wages per day for 250 days in a year for two years to the head of each family as per minimum wage rate of respective State Governments as per the proposed Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) package.

Coal allocation to thermal power units

3247. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has reduced the coal allocation to theremal power units in the first quarter during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: (a) and (b) No, Sir. Short term coal allocations to power utilities during April-June, 2008 is 31.771 million tonnes as compared to 31.440 million tonnes during corresponding period of last year. In addition, out of pit head stock lying with some coal companies, CIL has offered one time quantity of 8 million tonnes during April-June, 2008, for stock building purposes, subject to evacuation by Railways and commercial arrangements to be made by power utilities with coal companies. Therefore, the total coal allocation to thermal power plants during April-June, 2008 is more than the corresponding period of previous year.